

Thank you for the opportunity to feed into the Academy's response to the HSCC Select Committee inquiry on Brexit no deal.

Besides the universal workforce issues (the need for enabling European doctors to continue to work in the NHS without having to get a visa, coupled with the GMC continuing to recognise medical and higher postgraduate qualifications as equivalent to the UK ones), and the potential hindrance to clinical trials, the supply of radioisotopes are of the primary concern for the RCR specialties. Anything that delays radioisotopes getting to hospitals, whether for scanning or treatment, has the potential to result in missed scans and cancer treatment, as well as additional costs for hospitals (due to needing more product to counteract half-life decay). The UK Government has repeatedly assured us that leaving the [Euratom](#) treaty does not open up trade disadvantages for radioisotopes specifically, **however:**

- They are a product, and will therefore face the same future tariff/transport uncertainty as all other imported goods while we wait for the Brexit trade deal.
- Government has intimated we can still work with the Euratom Observatory which monitors supply issues, but they have yet to clarify in what capacity.
- Currently, radioisotopes are transported "without prior warning and consent" and jump to the head of a customs queue. We do not know if this provision will remain post-Brexit.
- Assurances have been offered that radioisotopes would fit the dangerous/hazardous goods 2 hour fast-tracking programme, (as long as the paperwork is in order and there has been some prior notification). However, there is no clear plan to as how this will work in practice.
- The RCR is still trying to ascertain what contingencies there are for weather issues or other border delays that will have a knock-on effect on customs traffic? How can shipments be prioritised in times of delay?
- Brexit will force the UK into a "third country" status with the European Medicines Agency (EMA), which will inevitably lead to additional obligations and tariffs for radioisotope suppliers.
- We are concerned that future transport and storage provisions for the sealed iridium sources used for brachytherapy have not been properly considered – these have to be heavily guarded when they get stored in the UK, as they can be used to make "dirty bombs".